



**PALM BEACH COUNTY
LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY
STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES**



**February 12, 2020
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Palm Beach County EOC – Broadcast Studio
20 South Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415**

I. Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions – Ken Roundtree, Former Chairperson

- Chairman Wall was delayed so Mr. Roundtree called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.
- Agency representation is reflected from sign-in sheets:

Ralph Wall [Chair]	West Palm Beach
Shane Ratliff	PBC DEM
Joe Mercurio	PBC DEM
John Garafalo	PBSC
Ken Roundtree	NPBCID
Dave Rotar	Jupiter
Liz Perez	Collective Water Systems, LLC
Nicole Coates	Wellington
Angela Prymas	Boynton Beach
Jacquelyn Anderson	PBC PZB
Mary Blakeney	PBC DEM
Debbie Manzo	Lantana
Estefania Lambrisca	Lantana
Andrea Dobbins	Juno Beach

- Ms. Manzo asked for a quorum call on membership present. A quorum of membership indicated 10/15 Steering Committee members present and quorum was recognized.
 - Mr. Wall arrived a short time later for a count of 11/15
- Meeting minutes can be found at <http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Sections/Planning-Local-Mitigation-Strategy.aspx>



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II. **ADDED: Rule Change to Chapter 27P-22 Update – Mary Blakeney, DEM Senior Manager; FEPA Past President**

- Ms. Blakeney asked for time to address the Steering Committee on an immediate item of interest that has direct influence on municipal stakeholders.
 - The State of Florida Division of Emergency Management – Mitigation, recently announced planned changes to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) authorities under rule 27P-22.006. A public hearing was made known with less than 24-hours' notice (January 31, 2020) and rescheduled for February 10, 2020. This meeting was held for the purpose of holding a workshop hearing to allow additional public comment on the proposed modifications to Chapter 27P-22, HMGP.
 - A certain stakeholder on the community conference call, indicated that it would be appropriate to allow the Governor the direct ability to affect selected project funding.
 - In the same call, and in direct contrast to the said comment, the Emergency Management community represented by County Emergency Managers, highly disagreed. They all believed the current process in assessment, development, and control of the PPL should remain “as-is” with the local EM community. Municipal stakeholders have a vested interest in development of their projects and the dedicated work by all involved to initiate a project application is paramount to the success of everyone’s LMS program.
 - There is a perception by the direction of the initial comment that the Governor should be allowed the authority through resilience, the opportunity to pick and choose what projects could/should be considered for funding.
 - Palm Beach County believes this is a hindrance to our inland communities in their mitigation efforts.
 - Ms. Blakeney stated that the State is going to review the comments as presented and make possible adjustments to the HMGP language. However, she stated that if the State promotes another public comment call, we will make notification to all stakeholders to possibly join in order to promote direct community feedback. More to follow.



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- III. **Approval of Spring Submission Period dates for 2020 – Ralph Wall**
- Proposed stakeholder projects for the Prioritized Project List (PPL) submission period will be **April 06 -17, 2020**.
 - Mr. Rotar made the comment that projects do not have to wait until the actual dates for final submission. Projects may be submitted at any time but will remain in a “DRAFT” status until the window opens for final submission for scoring.
 - New projects with supporting documentation will only be accepted electronically through the LMS WebEOC® Project/Initiative Form.
 - The review period of newly submitted projects through WebEOC, will be scored by the Evaluation Committee members April 20 through May 01.
 - Final in-person Evaluation Committee meeting(s) will be held on May 06, and as necessary, May 07.
 - LMS Steering Committee to approve new Prioritized Projects List at meeting on May 14.
 - Please note this is a change from a date of May 13, as the CRS ISO will be in PBC for the CRS Review
- IV. **Hurricane Michael [DR-4399] HMGP Funds – Joe Mercurio**
- The State produced a second call for project submissions for DR-4399 no later than March 10, 2020.
 - The County was considered a Tier 3 claimant but all projects on the current Prioritized Project List (November 2019 PPL) may qualify for submission to the State application project manager.
 - Please do not forget to notify the PBC LMS Coordinator in order to receive your Letter of Support. The application will not be accepted at the State without this letter.
 - Ms. Manzo indicated an interest to submit projects for Lantana. More to follow.
- V. **Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) – Joe Mercurio**
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that \$633 million in first-of-its-kind funding would be available to the state of Florida for disaster mitigation projects in areas impacted by presidentially declared disasters in 2016 and 2017. These funds are available through HUD's newly created Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program and will



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be used to fund disaster mitigation projects to better protect Florida from future disasters. See attachment for full details.

- The three primary mitigation needs include:
 - Improved operational resilience to ensure continuation of critical services and functions.
 - Bridging the gap of repetitive flooding challenges.
 - Support of infrastructural projects that meet mitigation and resilience needs.

- Based on these mitigation needs, relevant funding focus areas include:
 - General infrastructure (~50% of the funding for upgrading of water, sewer, solid waste, communications, energy, transportation, health and medical and other public infrastructure projects that will reduce hazard risks)
 - Public safety hardening (harden critical buildings that serve a public safety purpose for local communities)
 - Critical facility generator program (will allow units of local government to ensure that the most critical facilities, e.g. potable water facilities, waste water facilities, police departments, fire departments, emergency operations centers, and shelters have access to power throughout an emergency when local sources of power are down.)
 - Planning services (developing resilient building codes and land use planning, hazard mitigation planning, modernization and resiliency planning, upgrading mapping capabilities)

VI. Meeting Location Selections (LMS Working Group) – Joe Mercurio

- The Steering Committee received many generous offers from municipalities and stakeholders to host the LMS Working Groups over the course of the year.
- The Committee has selected the following host LMS Working Group locations:
 - March 11, 2020 Greenacres
 - June 10, 2020 Palm Springs
 - September 09, 2020 Port of Palm Beach
 - December 09, 2020 Seacoast Utilities



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- VII. **LMS2020 Adoption Update – Joe Mercurio, LMS Coordinator**
- All municipalities have adopted by Resolution the LMS2020
- VIII. **Questions/Comments – Ralph Wall, Chairperson**
- No other questions or concerns were made known.
- IX. **Adjourn – Ralph Wall, Chairperson**
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.
- X. **Next Meeting: May 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the EOC**

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